

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3655

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, NG

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE'S CALL ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY DAVIS

REF: STATE 218911

1. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY PARTICULAR ISSUES DJERMAKOYE MAY INTEND TO RAISE. IN ADDITION TO REVIEWING DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW YORK, HE WILL PROBABLY CONVEY APPRECIATION FOR US EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OVER PAST FEW YEARS WHILE UNDERLINING DESIRE FOR CONTINUING US SUPPORT OF NIGER'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. AS DISCUSSION TURNS TO SEPCIFICS, TO REINFORCE POINTS WE HAVE RECENTLY MADE HERE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ALLUDE IN GENERAL WAY TO DESIRABILITY OF GON'S MOVING MORE QUICKLY ON A) SELF-HELP PROGRAM; B) SIGNING CEREALS AGREEMENT; C) CROP DUSTING. IN THIS CONNECTION AMBASSADOR DAVIS MAY WISH TO DRAW ON FOLLOWING:

2. US APPROACH TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. BACKGROUND. NIRSIR DOES NOT RELISH CONFRONTATION TACTICS IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS AND WELCOMES THE PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO WORLD ECONOMIC ISSUES WHICH WE AHVE LAUNCHED IN THE 7TH SEPCIAL SESSION.

SUGGESTED TALKING POINT:

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--WE HOPE NIGER WILL WORK WITH US IN SPIRIT

OF COOPERATION ON THE AGENDA PROPOSED IN THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH. THE PROGRAM SET OUT THERE, PARTICULARLY THOSE ASPECTS DEALING WITH THE WORLD'S POOREST NATIONS, WERE FORMED SPECIFICALLY WITH COUNTRIES SUCH AS NIGER IN MIND.

3. US SUPPORT FOR THE SAHEL AND FOR NIGER'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. BACKGROUND. WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDING LARGE SCALE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE ON AN AD HOC BASIS TO NIGER FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, BUT ARE NOW MOVING TOWARD LONGER-RANGE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REMIND DJERMAKOYE THAT SUCH EFFORTS WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL BI-LATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL COORDINATION AND PLANNING.

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:

--WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO EMERGENCY REQUESTS FOR FOOD AND INTEND TO PLAY OUR PART IN MEETING FUTURE EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS.

--WE ALSO HOPE TO HELP SUPPORT THE GON'S AND OTHER N N SAHELIAN COUNTRY'S LONGER-RANGE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

--WE ARE LOOKING WITH INTEREST AT CURRENT INITIATIVE BEING TAKEN WITH OECD HELP AND BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE TO FOR A "COUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL" TO HELP COORDINATE AND MOBILIZE DONOR ASSISTANCE TO MEET LONG-TERM NEEDS.

(ASST SECRETARY HIGH NOTE CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE IN FAA OF 1974 SECTION 639B, TO CONSULT WITH COUNTRIES ON DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT OF A COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM AFRICAN SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.)

--AS NIGER MOVES AHEAD ON ITS 3-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, WE WILL WANT TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER ON MEDIUM AND LONGER-RANGE PROJECTS IN THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH.

--AS INDICATED IN THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH, SUBSTANTIAL

NEW US RESOURCES IN THESE AREAS ARE BECOMING AVAILABLE.

--IN ORDER TO DRAW ON THEM FOR THE BENEFIT OF NIGER, SUSTAINED BI-LATERAL CONTACTS AND CLOSE WORKING LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WILL BE ESSENTIAL.

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4. PRESENT PROBLEMS. BACKGROUND. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REMIND DJERMAKOYE THAT BUREAUCRATIC SNAGS ARE HOLDING UP SEVERAL KEY PROJECTS AT PRESENT.

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:

--THE CEREALS PROGRAM IS A MAJOR NEW US EFFORT IN THE SAHEL REGION OF AFRICA. WE HOPE THAT THE GON

WILL BE ABLE TO SIGN THE PROJECT AGREEMENT SOON IN ORDER TO FORESTALL ANY IMPRESSION OF A LACK OF INTEREST ON ITS PART TOWARD THIS PROGRAM.

--SIMILARLY WE HOPE THAT A WAY CAN BE FOUND IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE TO REINSTATE OFJ SELF-HELP PROGRAM IN NIGER WHICH HAS BEENIN ABEYANCE FOR A LONG PERIOD AWAITING CLARIFICATION OF HOW THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGER WISHES TO COVEY FORMAL APPROVAL OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.

--FINALLY, IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CROP DUSTING PROGRAM FOR WHICH WE, AT THE GON'S REQUEST, DELIVERED A FULLY EQUIPPED AIRCRAFT TO NIGER ON AUGUST 19. UNFORTUNATELY SOME OF THE IMPACT OF THIS PROGRAM MAS HAVE ALREADY BEEN LOST. WE STRONGLY HOPE THAT THE AIRCRAFT (WHICH IS NOW SCHEDULED TO START SPARYING OPERATIONS SEP 18) WILL HELP DEAL WITH THE SERIOUS INSECT PROBLEM WHICH THE US UNDERSTANDS HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD IN NIGER AND SOME OTHER SAHELIAN COUNTRIES.HECK

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